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EXCALIBUR[®]



DIRECT EDITION



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+
NEARY



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HARD TRUTHS

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I KNEW THIS WAS A BAD IDEA.

SHUT UP, DOUG!

DOUGLOCK.

SHUT UP!

KITTY,
ARE YOU... P UH
OH... GIRL, IF YOU'RE
GONNA BE SICK,
BEST Y'DO IT OUT OF
MY SIGHT OR I'LL BE
JOINING IN ON THE
FESTIVITIES...

NO...
I'M OKAY... IT'S
JUST... COUGH...
JUST GIVE ME A
SECOND
TO...



I AM SORRY FOR
YOUR DISTRESS, BUT
I TOLD YOU THAT...

YOU!
WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE?

THERE'S
A BODY IN THAT
GRAVE!



YES,
DOUGLAS
RAMSEY'S.



THAT'S
NOT POSSIBLE!
YOU'RE DOUG!

DEAR
GOD... WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?



DONE? I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU...

...AHHA... I SEE, YOU EXPECTED THE GRAVE TO BE EMPTY, DIDN'T YOU?

WHAT -- DID YOU THINK I ROSE FROM THIS GRAVE, THEN REPLACED MY BODY WITH THAT OF A "JOHN DOE"?

MAYBE I KILLED THE "JOHN DOE" MYSELF, IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT AT COVERING UP MY TRACKS?

AFTER ALL, ONE NEVER KNOWS WHEN AN INTANGIBLE MUTANT MIGHT DECIDE TO STOP BY TO PAY HER RESPECTS...

...UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL! IS THIS WHAT YOU THINK OF ME?

UM... WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, IT DOES SOUND A LITTLE...

A LITTLE?

OKAY... I'M A JERK. SATISFIED?

DOUG,
I'M SO SORRY,
I DIDN'T MEAN
TO...

DOUGLOCK,
MY NAME IS
DOUGLOCK.

I AM NOT NOW, NOR
HAVE I EVER BEEN,
DOUGLAS RAMSEY. IS
THIS REALLY SO HARD
FOR YOU TO ACCEPT?

I DO NOT MEAN TO
SOUND HARSH, BUT
I AM FAST REACHING
THE LIMITS OF MY
TOLERANCE FOR
THIS... THIS
NONSENSE!

DOUGLAS RAMSEY
IS DEAD/ A HARD
TRUTH, BUT A TRUTH
NONETHELESS...

I CAN ONLY TELL
YOU WHAT I KNOW,
AND I KNOW THAT I
AM NOT YOUR FRIEND
DOUGLAS RAMSEY.

I KNOW THIS,
KITTY. I WISH, FOR
YOUR SAKE, IT
WERE OTHERWISE...

... BUT IT IS NOT. NO MORE, NO LESS.
I AM DOUGLOCK. DOUGLOCK.

THEN
TELL ME WHY
YOU LOOK EXACTLY
LIKE HIM? WHY DID
YOU CHOOSE HIS
FACE, OF ALL
THINGS?

... I
CANNOT...

WORKS
FOR ME

Hrm—
mm...

U.I.R. ISLAND
MEDICAL
RESEARCH STATION.

PIOTR!
WAIT! RASPUTIN,
STAND DOWN,
NOW!

WE
DON'T HAVE
TIME TO...

RUNNING OFF
HALF-COCKED
ISN'T GOING TO
HELP THE
SITUATION!

PERIMETER
BREACH
CONFIRMED! WEST
WING/ BRIAN AND
MEGGAN ARE
DOWN!

CAN YOU
SAY, "WE'RE
UP THE CREEK"
BOYS AND
GIRLS?

THEY'RE
AFTER THE
XAVIER PROTOCOLS!
WE CAN'T LET THEM
FALL INTO THEIR
HANDS!

CLOSE
ENOUGH.

MOIRA,
IF YOU'VE GOT
A PLAN, THERE IS
NO TIME LIKE THE
PRESENT.

ALARM
DOWN!

YOU'VE
GOT TO SLOW
THEM DOWN! HIT
AND RUN, USE YOUR
FAMILIARITY WITH THE
COMPLEX TO YOUR
ADVANTAGE! I'LL HAVE
NIGHTCRAW... KURT
BACK YOU UP AS
SOON AS I CAN
SPARE HIM!

SPARE
HIM?

TRY
LIVING UP
TO YOUR NAME,
WISDOM! I NEED HIM
TO HELP ME GET THE
VAULT DOOR
CLOSED.

HE'S
NO HANK
MCDOY, BUT ANY
POST IN A
STORM...

I'M
SURE HE
SPEAKS WELL
OF YOU
TOO.

MOVE!

LUCK
TO US
ALL!

*LUCK TO
US ALL? WHAT'RE
YOU, THE MUTANT
POLYANNAP?

GRUNT...



SECONDARY
BRANCH/ INTERIOR
MAINTENANCE
CORRIDOR
SECURED.

THIS
IS GOING
DOWN TOO EASY,
I DON'T LIKE
IT...



AIN'T
FOR TH'LIKES
A'YOU T'LIKE
OR O'SLIKE
NOTHIN'!

NOW
GET YER
SORRY BUTTS
IN GEAR
AND...

YOU
FORGET
YOUR PLACE,
FOREARM. I
WAS PLACED IN
CHARGE OF THIS
OPERATION.

KINDA
HARD TO
FORGET, SWEET-
HEART. WHAT
WITH YOU REMINDING
US EVERY OTHER
SENTENCE
OUTTA YOUR
MOUTH.



Y'KNOW, THE DRONES
HERE MIGHT HAVE A POINT.
STRIKING AT MUJIR ISLAND
AIN'T SUPPOSED TO BE
GOING DOWN LIKE
NO MILK RUN.

THIS
STINKS
O' SET
UP.



YEAH? I
AIN'T SMELLIN'
NOTHIN' I CAN'T
HANDLE!

WELL?/
WHY'RE YOU
ALL STANDIN'
AROUND HERE FOR?/
LET'S GO! MOVE
OUT!



YER A ****
POINT TEAM! GET
OUT THERE AND POINT
US IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION!

YEAH,
YEAH...

FOREARM,
I'LL NOT REMIND
YOU AGAIN WHO'S IN
CHARGE...!



NOT GOOD.
NOT GOOD AT ALL.
WHEN I VOLUNTEERED
TO LEAD THIS ASSAULT,
I'D HOPED I COULD KEEP
THE BLOODSHED TO A MINIMUM.
MAYBE EVEN FIGURE OUT A WAY
TO SABOTAGE THE MISSION.
KEEP THE XAVIER PROTOCOLS
FROM FALLING
INTO M.L.F.
HANDS.

DON'T
LOOK TO BE
TURNING OUT
THAT WAY.

I STILL
CAN'T BELIEVE
XAVIER ACTUALLY
PROVIDED A BLUE-
PRINT FOR TAKING
DOWN THE
X-MEN...

DEAR
GOD, WHAT
WAS THE MAIN
THINKING?

PIZZA
NONANZA

OPEN

... BEEN
AGES SINCE
WE'VE BEEN HERE.
THIS WAS ALMOST
LIKE A SECOND HOME
BACK IN THE OL'
"NOSE TO THE
GRINDSTONE"
DAYS.

I HAVE
NEVER
BEEN HERE
BEFORE —

Oh...
GOOD!
OUR FAVORITE
TABLE IS
FREE!

JUST
MAKE SURE
NEITHER OF YOU
GUYS ACCIDENTALLY
SHUT OFF YOUR
IMAGE INDUCERS OR
WE'LL HAVE WHOLE LOT
OF EXPLAINING
TO DO!

I'LL GET THE
SLICES.

CAN I HAVE
MINE WITH...?

I
REMEMBER.
BE BACK IN A
FLASH.

—SIGH— SHE
IS PERSISTENT.

IS THAT
WHAT IT'S
BEING CALLED
NOW?

DO
FER Y'P

Oh...
GINO'S NOT ON
TONIGHT?

GINO'P
BIT CUTTA
TOUCH, AIN'CHA,
HON'P GINO AIN'T
WORKED HERE
FNEAR A
YEAR.

A...
YEAR...

YOU
GONNA
ORDER 'R'
WHAT?

Uh...
YEAH...
SURE...







SHUT IT DOWN!
SHOT IT DOWN!!
WE'RE SHORTING
OUT THE FORCE
FIELD!!

FACE IT, MOIRA,
IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!
WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO RESEAL
THE UNIT FOR DAYS NOW! BARRING
A MIRACLE, WE'RE NOT ABOUT TO
FIGURE IT OUT IN THE MINUTES
LEFT US BEFORE THE M.L.F.
OVERRUNS THIS
POSITION!

THEN THE FORCE FIELD
WILL HAVE TO DO! I'M
GOING TO RE-ROUTE
THE AUXILIARY POWER
LINES, GIVE THE FIELD
EXTRA PUNCH!

LINK
UP WITH
THE OTHERS.
I CAN TAKE IT
MYSELF FROM
HERE!

GO!

YOU ARE
CERTAIN..P



YOU MIGHT
NOT UNDERSTAND
WHAT I'M ABOUT
TO DO... AS A
MATTER OF FACT, I'M
CERTAIN YOU
WOULDN'T.





WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

THINK THIS
IS SUSPICIOUS
ENOUGH TO WARRANT
INVESTIGATING.
STAND READY.



NOW
THIS IS
GONNA BE
UGLY!

HIGH-
LOW! KICK IT
IN!



TK
CHAK



I BELIEVE
THE WORD IS --
INCOMING!!



CIRCUIT BREAKERS
HELD, THANK
GOD!

WHAT
ON EARTH
ARE THEY
DOING OUT
THERE?



OUCH...

YUP,
PRETTY UGLY,
A'RIGHT.

GUESS
THAT'S WHY
THEY CALL
'EM SHOCK
TROOPS.



GOOD ONE, BIG
GUY! NICE TO SEE
YOU GOT THE BRAINS
TO MATCH THE
BRAWN.

I WILL
TAKE THAT AS
A COMPLIMENT,
FOR YOUR SAKE.



THIS
IS AS FAR
AS YOU
GO!

YEEH!
WHAT TH'
#&*!# IS THAT
SMELL?

VERY
WITTY, MEIN
HERR. SEE IF YOU
CAN LAUGH THIS
OFF!



YER PALS ARE
LOOKING TO BE IN
ROUGH SHAPE
HERE.



NO!

LISTEN TO THE
LADY, IT AIN'T US
YOU SHOULD BE
CONCERNIN' YER-
SELF WITH. OR DID I
THINK WE WERE
LUGGIN' THESE
TWO AROUND
FOR OUR
HEALTH?



YEAH,
HOW DO
YOU FIGURE
THEY'LL STAND UP
TO YOUR LITTLE
CONCUSSION
GRENADE?



CLOSE
DELIVERY
BOY, BUT NO
CIGAR.

UNGLAUBLICH!

BAMF

BAM!

LIVING
SHIELDS/
USING BRIAN
AND MEGGAN
AS LIVING
SHIELDS!

TCHOOOM

I HOPE
YOU'VE GOT
AN ACE UP YOUR
SLEEVE, MOIRA/
BECAUSE OUR
HANDS HAVE JUST
BEEN TIED!

Ahhh...
WOULDJA
LOOK AT
THIS!

TALK
ABOUT LEANING
INTO A LEFT HOOK.
THE WHOLE WORTH-
LESS BUNCH OF
THEM!

DID YOU HONESTLY
EXPECT THE FORCE
TO MAKE IT EASY
FOR US?

WAS
THAT A
SHOT?

YOU
FIGURE IT OUT.
NOW COME ON.
STAY ALERT FOR
ANY MORE NASTY
SURPRISES.

SOUNDED
LIKE A SHOT
TME...

Ahhh...
FORGET IT. THEY
WAS NOTHING BUT
CANNON-FOODER
ANYWAY.

THERE'S THAT
COMPASSIONATE
STREAK THAT SO
ENDERS YOU TO
US, FOREARM.



WILL YE LADS
KEEP IT DOWN?
I'M TRYING TO
CONCENTRATE!

FER TH'
LUVA... YOU'RE
THE ON WHO
CALLED US
BACK!

SHE HAD
NO CHOICE!
THEY'RE USING
BRIAN AND
MEGGAN
AS...

LIVING
SHIELDS.

WE GET
IT ALREADY!
IT'S JUST THAT
WE'RE NOT DOING
ANYBODY ANY GOOD
SITTING HERE,
TWIDDLIN' OUR
THUMBS.

AT
LEAST THE
FORCE FIELD'LL
SLOW THEM DOWN.
GIVE US A CHANCE
TO COME UP
WITH...

I'VE
SHUT THE
FIELD
DOWN.



"FUNNIEST THING, I COULD HAVE SWORN I JUST HEARD YOU SAY YOU'D SHUT THE FORCE FIELD DOWN..."

THAT TH' UNIT?

THAT'S THE UNIT.

WHAT DO THEY TAKE US FOR -- IDIOTS?

THEY LEAVE IT STANDIN' OPEN LIKE THAT, UNPROTECTED, AND FIGURE WE'LL WALK RIGHT ON INTO WHATEVER BOOBY-TRAP THEY GOT RIGGED!



YO, WILDSIDE/ YOU THINKIN' WHAT I'M THINKIN'?

DEAD ON!



TEST SUBJECTS?

TEST SUBJECTS. BROAD'S PERFUME WAS REALLY BEGINNIN' T' GET ON MY NERVES, BE GLAD T' BE RID OF HER.



NOW THAT, I WASN'T EXPECTING.

I'D HOPED TO TRAP THEM INSIDE THE FIELD, OH WELL, ANY PORT IN A STORM, I ALWAYS SAY.



SON OF A... / SOME KINDA FORCE FIELD JUST KICKED IN!

TOL'JA TH' BLASTED THING WAS BOOBY-TRAPPED!

THAT COULD HAVE BEEN US CONTAINED IN THERE!



STINKIN', LOUSY, BUSHWACKIN'... NOW WHAT DO WE DO?!

YOU COULD TRY YELLING AT IT SOME MORE, FOR ALL THE GOOD IT'S DONE SO FAR!

THE ADVANTAGE IS THEIRS NOW! I'M ABORTING THE MISSION. STAND BY FOR TELEPORT-DUST OFF!



'PORT OUT IN 3...
2...

MUSIC TO MY EARS.

THE ADVANTAGE IS THEIRS! HIGH... WELL PLAYED, GANI...



KITTY,
ENOUGH. THIS
IS... YOU'RE REALLY
BEGINNING TO
WORRY ME.



RAHNE,
PLEASE, JUST
INDULGE ME
THIS ONE LAST
TIME.

~SIGH~

THIS IS
THE RAMSEY
HOUSE, IS
IT NOT?

IT
DOESN'T
APPEAR AS
IF ANYONE IS
HOME.



GOOD. I WAS
COUNTING
ON THAT.

ISN'T THIS
BREAKING AND
ENTERING?

WELL...
TECHNICALLY...
I SUPPOSE...



IT'S NOT
BREAKING AND
ENTERING IF
IT'S YOUR...
OMIGOD!



WOOO!

ONE HARD
TRUTH
LATER...

PRETTY
STUPID, HUH?
SNEAKING INTO YOUR
HOUSE, THINKING THAT
IF DOUG... DOUGLOCK
SAW YOUR OLD ROOM,
IT WOULD... WOULD
SNAP HIM OUT
OF IT.

BUT IT
ISN'T YOUR ROOM
ANYMORE. IT'S A DEN.
YOUR PARENTS TURNED
YOUR OLD ROOM INTO A
DEN... THEY KNEW, THEY
KNEW YOU WERE...
GONE.

THEY'D DEALT
WITH THEIR GRIEF
AND GONE ON WITH
THEIR LIVES... THERE'S
PICTURES OF YOU ALL
OVER THAT ROOM... BUT
IT'S NOT YOUR ROOM
ANYMORE...



I WISH
I COULD HAVE
SPARED HER
THIS.

SHE'LL
BE OKAY...
NOW.

IT LOOKS
LIKE SHE'S
FINISHED...



WIF...
DOUGLOCK?
MY... MY NAME'S
KITTY, I'M PLEASD
TO FINALLY MEET
YOU.

THE END.

Ah! It's freezing here! Can it really be October, or is it just the gentle tears of sadness as Warren and Carlos depart for other pastures? The outpouring was quite amazing, as you'll see in the sampling below, and this wasn't even their final issue! Anyway, you'll no doubt notice that we're skipping over the mail to issues #100-101 (for the most part) and jumping right into #102. It's not that we didn't like those stories, nor do we have a need to cover only the issues we've worked on! Really! It seems that during that crazy transition of the book from Suzanne to Jaye to me, most of the mail on those issues just never made the journey. In the event those poor, forlorn, unread letters should work their way to our doorstep, we'll be sure to print 'em.

And on the subject of mail, we'd like all you computer users to feel free to send your EXCALIBUR letters via e-mail to the MARVEL: ONLINE site. That's right! Just craft your comments as letters and stick 'em in either the adult or children's folders, in the EXCALIBUR folder, and we'll pluck 'em out! Thanks.

—Matt

Dear Swordstrokes,
I'm sad to say issue

#101 was my first issue of EXCALIBUR. Hey, it's not my fault my local comic dealer doesn't carry it! But anyway, I was out of town and picked up an issue and I loved it! I really enjoyed the detail and artwork of the EXCALIBUR crew. I also have a question: Is there a certain type of sword Nightcrawler uses, or is it just something you guys created?

I'm already putting together money for a subscription. So, keep up the good work, and I'll see you in thirty.

Jase Beckwith
Emmet, NE

Welcome aboard, Jase! Being a new reader is the greatest joy and the greatest sorrow a person can know (kind of like adolescence, actually). On the one hand, a wondrous new world of discovery awaits you as you are treated to new adventures and learn bits and pieces about the past. At the same time, you can't help but wonder what came before, and why you don't own those issues! Arrgggh! Well, here's an idea: we're starting to put out these massive, phone-book-sized books called THE ESSENTIAL (fill in the blank). THE ESSENTIAL X-MEN and THE ESSENTIAL WOLVERINE should be on sale right about now, and each collects the first two years or so of each comic's continuity. Maybe, if you and enough other fans write in and demand it, we can begin an ESSENTIAL EXCALIBUR series. The first 100 issues of the series would fill just four volumes rather nicely. Let the campaign begin here!

As for your question: Nightcrawler's blade is nothing more than a plain old

sabre. Unless of course it makes contact—then it's a plain old deadly fencing sword.

Dear Swordstrokes,

You guys are really good! You have got the best writer, artists, and just about the best everything!

EXCALIBUR #101 was awesome! I think Warren Ellis is even better than Scott Lobdell (Gasp!) And Casey Jones had never been my favorite artist, but all of a sudden in this issue he was great! He and Carlos Pacheco are two of the best!

Anyway, on to what I liked the most about this issue: it was hilarious! I loved the part where Colossus is carrying Wisdom by his pants, and then where Wisdom says, "I've seen this plot on Star Trek." Kurt's explanation to Brian on what happened to Flit was funny, too. But my favorite part is where Douglock says, "Thou droning, hedge-born, fly-bitten bladder!!" My mom even laughed, and she hates comic books.

My favorite character is Nightcrawler. I love his new look and 'do. Pete Wisdom is cool, too. I love his attitude!

Okay, on to the questions:

1) Was it just my imagination, or was that a "bamf" on Kurt's couch?

2) Do you have any plans to make Kurt and Amanda more than boyfriend/girlfriend? They make a good couple and I think they should get married.

Well, I'd better go.

Marissa Nemeth
South Bend, IN

Thanks for bringing your mom into the fold, Marissa! First, your family. Next, the world! But seriously, the fun and humor that Warren brought into EXCALIBUR is not going to be leaving with him. These characters are a great joy to read, and they're going to stay that way.

EDITOR

ASSISTANT

CHIEF

MATT
IDELSON

PAUL
TUTANE

BOB
HARRAS

And about those questions of yours...

1) Why, yes, it was indeed a Bam! Good eye, Marissa, and good memory, too!

2) With all this change in the air, anything, and we mean anything, can—and will—happen. We have some very definite plans for these two... 1997 will be a year Kurt and Amanda will not soon forget! (And if that sounded sinister, it was supposed to!)

Dear *Swordstrokes*,

I have to tell you, your comic rocks!! I first picked up EXCALIBUR with issue #86 because it contained two of my favorite characters in all comicdom, Shadowcat and Nightcrawler. Not only was this a great issue, but it also introduced Pete Wisdom. At first, I didn't know about this new guy who didn't seem to want to fight at all, which seemed understandable, but Warren Ellis has developed him unbelievably well since he first joined the team, and thanks to his great job, Pete Wisdom is now one of my favorite characters. I especially like the fact that he got together with Kitty Pryde, another of my favorite characters.

Please, please, please keep them together and away from Colossus. Ooohhhh, I hate, hate *hate* that stupid traitor; thinks he can pound Wisdom and get away with it. Not while I hopefully have anything to say about it. But I have to honestly say that between Casey Jones, Warren Ellis, and the rest of the great staff of EXCALIBUR, this book is the best on the market today and it will stay that way. By the way, I love Pete Wisdom's blunt attitude about things, especially in issue #102, where he tells everyone that "no amount of sulking or worrying changes" the fact that Xavier may be taken into federal custody and by doing so, he gets everyone to smile. I think that he has an excellent outlook on life both in comics and in true life. Way to get philosophical (don't worry, I'll forgive you... this time). Keep up the outstanding work. Until Pete Wisdom stops smoking, make mine Marvel.

Pete Foltz

(Address withheld by request)

Yeah, that Wisdom is a real riot, isn't he, Pete? He just has this level of sarcasm where every comment is a real zinger. Kind of like Kitty, come to think of it. Maybe that's why they get along so well.

And not to worry, 'cause this couple ain't going to Spillville, Colossus or no Colossus. For starters, Piotr and Pete (man, this could get confusing) have already made their peace (as much as two macho guys like them can, anyway).

Secondly, Colossus is going to be far too miserable next year to have time to go after Kitty. Trust us! And besides, Pete and Kitty are just so darn cute together that... Pete? Hey, Pete! We were only kidding! Oh, well.

Dear *Swordstrokes*,

RE: EXCALIBUR #102

I'm writing this letter in great sadness. In the Next Issue box I read the news that Warren Ellis and Carlos Pacheco's run on EXCALIBUR is over, and I was heartbroken. Mr. Ellis really made the characters believable and Mr. Pacheco, who in such a short time became the best X-pencil. I hope you find a worthy replacement.

So Bastion is interested in eradicating our favorite UK mutants as well, huh? He sure gets around, doesn't he? He's definitely a mysterious character. Usually when a new mystery is set in motion in X-titles, I at least have some ideas, but with Bastion, I'm completely stumped.

Margali appears to be alive but I hope she doesn't come back into the fold for quite some time. Recurring antagonists are good in most comics, but get too bland if their appearances are too close together.

That's it for now. Thanks for listening.

Sean Penrose
Norwalk, OH

Hey, you don't have to thank us, Sean—we always listen. That Bastion sure is creepy, don'tcha think? If you've read any of the other X-books, then you've probably seen a lot of the readers' guesses as to who this Bastion guy really is. Believe us, nobody has gotten it yet.

As for a return of Margali—naw. Like you said, she only just left. Warren introduced a number of enticing villains that we definitely want to see again, but we're first going to be injecting some new and old villains into the mix. After all, why should Excalibur have it easy?

Dear *Swordstrokes*,

I just finished reading issue #102. It was great! EXCALIBUR is the comic I look forward to reading most each month. It always

has plenty of action and humor.

I was sad to hear issue #103 will be the last issue with the current creative team. The issues of EXCALIBUR written by Warren Ellis are my favorites so far. Thanks for never failing to entertain me.

Bobby Lawson
Barbourville, KY

Dear *Swordstrokes*,

Issue #102 was another great book. I used to read EXCALIBUR back in the Claremont/Davis days, and their stuff was never this good.

I'm loving Carlos Pacheco and Casey Jones both. How lucky we are that we are never subjected to a sub-par issue when the regular artist takes a break. Great stuff!

Warren Ellis is equally awesome. He mixes the action with plenty of real life—breakfast at the pub, nights around the TV, repairs on the airship (o.k., so that's not too life like)... I also love the dialog. I lived in England for half a year and the characters sound just like my old friends. "Sorted!"

So, needless to say, I will be sad to see the new changes, but I have faith. Thanks for such a consistently good book.

Tim Gossett
St. Louis, MO

Thanks for the faith, Bobby and Tim. We'll be sure to reward it! While Warren, Carlos, and Casey will be sorely missed, we think the new team will carry on the tradition of quality proudly. As for those "real-life" moments—they're not going away. Real life is the glue that holds the exciting adventures and knock-out action together, and keeps everyone caring about these characters.

NEXT MONTH

MAN... THAT COLOSSUS HAS BEEN DOING A LOT OF SOUL-SEARCHING LATELY. WHAT A DRAG!

BUT NOW THE SUBJECT OF SOME OF HIS DARKEST THOUGHTS ARE ABOUT TO GOE CALLING! AND ROUTING PIOTR IS GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE CHOICE...

CAUSE THE ACOLYTES ARE ABOUT TO GOE CALLING!